

Improving Health Outcomes for Children in Maine and Vermont (IHOC)

In February 2010, Maine and Vermont were awarded a five-year child health quality improvement grant. The project focuses on using quality measures and information technology to improve health outcomes for children. The goal is to improve timely access to quality care for children who are insured by Medicaid. The State of Maine is working to:

- Collect and test child health measures.
- Share quality data with payers, providers, consumers and the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS).
- Align the IHOC quality measures with those of private payers, professional groups, and MaineCare.
- Set up secure computer systems to collect well-child data from electronic medical records and from state government.
- Develop new, secure ways for health providers to access health assessments for children in foster care.
- Provide the American Academy of Pediatrics' *Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents*, Third Edition, Tool and Resource Kit.
- Conduct quality improvement training with the Patient Centered Medical Home Pilot and other medical practices. The goal is to improve rates of preventive services.
- Build a child health quality improvement partnership that will continue after the grant ends.

IHOC is paid for by a grant from The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) through Section 401(d) of the Child Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA). In Maine, MaineCare includes both Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP allows working parents to buy Medicaid coverage for their children.

MaineCare Services, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) received the grant in partnership with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine (USM), Vermont's Medicaid Program, and the University of Vermont. Both states are working closely physicians and practices serving children.

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